

COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2021

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To grant a dispensation for a Councillor who is currently unable to attend Full Council and Council Committee meetings at Castle House for health reasons.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 1972 states that when a Councillor fails to attend any meeting for 6 consecutive months from the date of his last attendance, then, subject to certain exceptions, they cease to be a member of the authority, unless the Council accepts a reason for the failure to attend before the 6 months period expires.
- 2.2 For personal health-related reasons, Councillor Neal Mitchell is currently unable to attend Full Council or Council Committees at Castle House. He continues to participate in remote meetings as a representative of the Council where possible. Attendance at informal meetings as a representative of the Council meets the requirements of the legislation. However, for the avoidance of doubt, it is considered appropriate to report the matter to Full Council.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 In the circumstances it is recommended to grant a dispensation under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, for the period of 6 months from 14 December 2021.
- 3.2 To ensure democratic representation at Council Committees during this period, it is proposed that the Labour Group reallocate any Committee seats currently held by Councillor Mitchell.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

To approve a dispensation for Councillor Neal Mitchell for a period of 6 months from the date of this meeting, as set out in paragraph 3 of the report.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Sue Bearman on 01636 655935

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